

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 24, 26, 33, and 35, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A modular mounting bar for securing components for use with a display device comprising a housing to a surface separate from the display device, comprising:

a plurality of audio-visual modules;

a rail configured to be attached to the surface via at least one of a plurality of openings disposed along the rail and the rail being configured to receive each of the modules at a respective one of a plurality of coupling points along the rail, wherein the modules are positioned above or below the display device and within the vertical bounds of the display device, wherein the rail is not coupled to either the display device or the housing of the display device, and wherein the surface comprises the outer surface of a generally vertical wall; and

a cover configured to be secured in front of at least a portion of one of the modules.

2. (Currently Amended) A modular mounting system for audio-visual components for use with a display device comprising a housing, comprising:

at least one audio-visual module; and

a rail wherein the rail is configured to be attached to a surface other than surfaces of the display device, wherein the surface comprises the outer surface of a generally vertical wall, wherein the rail is separate from the display device and the housing of the display device, and wherein the rail is configured to receive the module at a plurality of locations along the rail, wherein the module is positioned above or below the display device and within the vertical bounds of the display device.

3. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, further comprising:

a cover that is configured to be securely positioned in front of the module.

4. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 3, wherein the cover is configured to be secured to the at least one module.

5. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 3, wherein the cover comprises a grille.

6. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the rail comprises a plurality of openings configured to receive a fastener, the fastener being securable to the surface.

7. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the rail comprises:
a base configured to define a mating relationship with the at least one module;
a pair of flanges that defines a groove running along the lengthwise edge of the base.

8. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 7, wherein the pair of flanges each extend approximately perpendicularly from each end of the base and along opposing longitudinal edges of the base, each flange having a portion comprising an inwardly extending lip

9. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises a loudspeaker.

10. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises a DVD player.

11. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises an amplifier.

12. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises a television tuner.

13. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises an audio-visual controller.

14. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises a wireless transmitter.

15. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises a wireless receiver.

16. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises a compact disc player.

17. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises a digital video recorder.

18. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises an MP3 player.

19. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises a central processing unit (CPU).

20. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises a media center.

21. (Original) The modular mounting system of Claim 2, wherein the at least one audio-visual module comprises an audio-visual signal distribution system.

22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the rail has portions thereof that define a channel; and

wherein the audio-visual component has attachment surfaces that matingly connect with the channel to the rail, so as to fix the component in a desired location on the rail.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 22, further comprising:

securing a cover to the component so as to secure the cover in a desired location on the component.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of mounting audio-visual components for use with a display device comprising a housing, to a surface separate from the display device, comprising:

securing a rail to the surface, the surface comprising the outer surface of a generally vertical wall; and

connecting an audio-visual component to the rail, wherein the audio-visual component is positioned above or below the display device and within the vertical bounds of the display device.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24, further comprising connecting at least one additional audio-visual component to the rail.

26. (Currently Amended) An assembly for mounting audio-visual components for use with a wall-mounted display device comprising a housing, the assembly comprising:

at least two audio-visual modules comprising loudspeakers;

a rail wherein the rail is configured to only be attached to a surface other than surfaces of the display device and the housing of the display device, the surface comprising the outer surface of a generally vertical wall, and wherein the rail is configured to receive the modules, wherein the audio-visual modules are positioned above or below the display device and within the vertical bounds of the display device; and

a cover having a dimension approximately equal to a length of the display device and defining a mating relationship with the at least two modules;

27. (Original) The assembly of Claim 26, wherein the cover is configured to be coupled to the modules.

28. (Original) The assembly of Claim 26, wherein the cover is configured to be coupled to the rail.

29. (Original) The assembly of Claim 26, wherein the cover comprises a grille.

30. (Original) The assembly of Claim 26, further comprising a third module comprising a loudspeaker.

31. (Original) The assembly of Claim 26, further comprising a module comprising an amplifier.

32. (Original) The assembly of Claim 26, further comprising a module comprising one end of a wireless link.

33. (Currently Amended) A modular mounting bar for securing components in proximity to a display device having a width, the display device being secured to a generally vertical wall, comprising:

a rail having mounting locations for audio-visual components and configured to be secured to an outer surface of the generally vertical wall independent from the display device; and

means for connecting an audio-visual component to multiple locations on the rail so that component locations match the width of the display device, wherein the component is positioned above or below the display device and within the vertical bounds of the display device.

34. (Original) The module mounting bar of Claim 33, further comprising means for connecting at least one additional audio-visual component to the rail.

35. (Currently Amended) A modular mounting bar for securing components in proximity to a display device having a width, the display device being secured to a generally vertical wall, comprising:

a plurality of audio-visual-modules;

a rail configured to be secured to an outer surface of the generally vertical wall independent from the display device and having a length no greater than the width of the display device, wherein the length of the rail is greater than the width of each of the modules, wherein the rail has a plurality of mounting holes at each of a plurality of module mounting locations to match module mounting to the width of the display device, and wherein each of the modules is configured to be attached to the rail at a respective one of the module mounting locations, wherein the modules are positioned above or below the display device and within the vertical bounds of the display device; and

a cover having a length substantially the same as the width of the display device.

36. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises a loudspeaker.

37. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises a DVD player.

38. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises an amplifier.

39. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises a television tuner.

40. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises an audio-visual controller.

41. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises a wireless transmitter.

42. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises a wireless receiver.

43. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises a compact disc player.

44. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises a digital video recorder.

45. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises an MP3 player.

46. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises a central processing unit (CPU).

47. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules comprises a media center.

48. (Previously Presented) The modular mounting bar of Claim 35, wherein at least one of the audio-visual modules an audio-visual signal distribution system.